



The Ark Newsletter

September 2026

Welcome back to everyone! We hope you all had a lovely summer break and please share what you have done over the holidays on Tapestry!

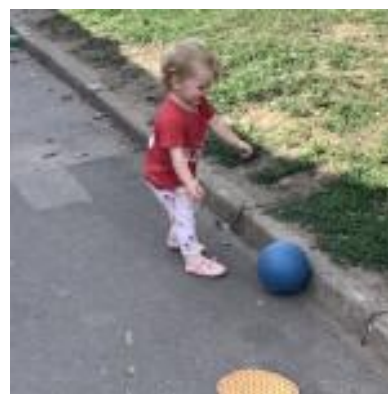
Wow, what an amazing start to the term. The children are settling in so well and are so busy exploring, showing curiosity and making new friends. We have had so much fun playing indoors, getting messy at the craft tables and being imaginative in the home corner, not to mention the excitement of being outside, racing around on the bikes and digging in the sand pit.

It is lovely to see all the new children developing friendships, settling into the routines and exploring the curriculum on offer with our older children role modelling and supporting the little ones.



Staff

We would like you to all join us in welcoming a new member of staff to the Ark team. Caroline will be starting with us at the beginning of October and will be working alongside the preschool room team getting to know the pre-schoolers and their routines. Caroline is level 3 qualified and is returning to childcare after a period in adult care



A Few Reminders

Arrival/Collection Times

Please ensure you leave and collect your child at the times booked, as several children have been arriving before their session begins and/or have been collected after their session ends. This is particularly prevalent before the 8.45am session and at the end of the 12.45 – 3.15pm session. If you do occasionally arrive early please wait with your child in the lobby until the start of the booked session. If you are also collecting older siblings from school at 3.15pm, please ensure you collect your child from **The Ark first**. This is very important as we may breach our OFSTED registration conditions if we do not adhere to correct staff/children ratios. End of the Day; as you are all aware as a setting we operate **8am-6pm**. This means we close the doors at **6pm**, if you require a handover at the end of the day please arrive by 5.50pm so that staff have time to do the handover. If you arrive after this time, handover will be short and limited. Any collections after 6pm will incur a fee.

Clothes Labelling and spare clothes

Please also ensure your child's clothes have his/her name in them, as we constantly have a pile of unlabelled, unclaimed clothing. Please be warned that periodically we have a clear out and clothes are likely to be sent to the jumble if they are not claimed.

Here at The Ark we are promoting children's independence. Please can we request that children have shoes that they are able to put on and take off by their self. Velcro fastening shoes are ideal for all ages to master.

Please could all children come to nursery with at least two changes of spare clothes in their bags. Currently our nursery spare clothes are very limited.

Administrator

Just a polite reminder that Tracey our administrator works **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 0830am-5pm**. We ask that if you would like to discuss ongoing bookings, payments or funding please email or pop in during Tracey's working hours. This way we will be able to help you more efficiently as other members of staff maybe included within the ratios for the children. Tracey is currently on annual leave until 7th October.

Harvest festival collection:

There is currently a box for donations of food items towards harvest festival in the foyer, please contribute if you can.

Term Dates

Autumn term 2026

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Thursday 3rd September – Thursday 17th December

Half term /holiday club 26th -30th October

Inset /holiday club day Friday 23rd October

If your child has a term time only booking they should not attend on inset/holiday club days.

The Raft opening times are **8.00am-5.45pm** during both term time and for holiday club.

Both the Ark and Raft buildings are closed for Bank Holidays

Dates for your diary

The Ark will be hosting a Christmas Bingo on Friday 4th December at Child Okeford village hall. Doors open at 7pm eyes down at 7.30pm. Any donations of prizes will be gratefully received

Fire assembly point

In the event of the fire alarm sounding when you are dropping off or collecting your children at The Ark please follow the staff's direction and evacuate through the nearest fire exit. The fire assembly point is on St Nicholas's school playground next to the outdoor classroom

St Nicholas School will be holding open days on the following dates and times:

Tuesday 13th October 14:00-15:00

Thursday 15th October 09:30-10:30

Tuesday 10th November 09:30-10:30

Thursday 12th November 14:00-15:00

Please direct any questions about open mornings to the school office

01258860581

office@childokeford.dorset.sch.uk

Sarah McNab

Nursery Manager

